

California GARDEN

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A Garden Nook
Landscaping by Paul H. Avery

JULY
1935

Gambling in the
Garden

By Peter D. Barnhart

Pedil versus Eu-pedil

By Murray Skinner

Nature Pictures

By Josie K. Anderson

The Magazine . . .

"California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly
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Subscription \$1.00 per year

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SUMMER GARDEN TOURS

The Floral Association's July meeting was featured by a dramatic reading, a variation in program made possible by Professor Frank Hardy Lane, who wrote the play, "Fantasy of the Flowers," and gave the reading, assisted by Miss Bernita Offerman dancing as "Nymbus." Mrs. Lewis K. Markey was at the piano.

Professor Lane's play was produced in Chula Vista in April. It is a charming work and the association felt privileged to hear it.

News of the fall flower show was authenticated by the members of the association when they voted to hold the event in the down town Bridges building on Sixth and C streets late in August.

After the program and business a round table discussion was conducted by Mrs. M. C. Larson of Carlsbad, who spoke on tiger lilies, and Dewey Kelly and C. I. Jerabeck, who brought specimens of various plants. They advised the planting of vines at this time for winter flowers; and Miss Kate Sessions' valuable little list of vines of local worth was distributed by Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president of the association. Mrs. Greer announced the appointment of yours truly for publicity in the association—Ada Perry.

THE JULY MEETING

Of the summer garden tours enjoyed by the Floral Association this year none were more pleasant certainly than the Sunday in June spent jointly at the gardens of the Misses Etta and Lydia Schwieder and Mrs. Herbert S. Evans.

The Misses Schweider's home on Pine is filled to the last square inch with plants in perfect foliage and flower. Each part of the garden—entrance, cactus bed, patio, north and west sides—is tastefully planned to give the best effect. Most notable blooms were the fuchsias, hydrangeas and San Diego's famous orange geranium which is such a favorite with the sisters that they continue to slip it without the slightest idea where the new plants are to be set out. Some flowers are like that!

Mrs. Evans' garden is one of San Diego's show places by virtue of garden contest medals and many stories in eastern and western magazines. Her reception that afternoon was much appreciated by the Floral organization, who greeted her as she sat in her pretty chair in the dianthus Beatrix corner. She was dressed in white with a blue military cape thrown around her and made her friends welcome as only Mrs. Evans can.

Around her the garden spread a living canvas of bird of Paradise, agapanthus, Canterbury bells, roses, cinerarias and Regal lilies buds just ready to open and spill their exquisite perfume. On easels among the flowers were other canvases, those of Alfred W. Mitchell, accomplished San Diego artist and a director in the association. Mr. Mitchell's pictures are a most appropriate feature in Mrs. Evans' garden receptions, and they are inspirations to better gardens to those who cannot use a brush and must express themselves with a hoe. ADA PERRY.

NOTICE

On file and for sale, complete copies of all "California Garden" magazines.

MEXICAN PLANTS FOR AMERICAN GARDENS

In the June issue, Lester Rountree of Carmel, California, reviewed this novel book for the "California Garden" in a thoroughly complete fashion. However, after reading the book, our enthusiasm is such that we feel we must bubble over a little. One of the most outright entertaining garden books ever published, we believe, was "Exploring for Plants," by David Fairchild. This book, the writer has read at least three times. Cecile Hulse Matschat's "Mexican Plants for American Gardens" (Houghton, Mifflin, \$3.50) like "Exploring for Plants," fairly teems with interest. It is really more than a garden book, it is literature. The author has demonstrated, like David Fairchild, that high adventure is possible even in a seemingly prosaic book on plants.

CACTUS

This latest cactus book, "Cactus," by A. J. van Laren, Abbey San Encino Press, \$5.00, comes as a fitting companion to the author's "Succulents." A limited edition of each has been offered by the publisher at an exceptionally reasonable price for publications of this type. "Cactus" contains 114 colored illustrations of remarkable fidelity. "Succulents" contains 126 fine colored illustrations. The author, Curator of the Botanical Gardens of the University of Amsterdam, Holland, covers his subject fully, covering origin and development, classification by genera, monstrosities, propagation and culture. The translation from the Dutch is by E. J. LaBarre while Scott E. Haselton, editor of the "Cactus Journal," is responsible for the editing and arrangement.

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

... Gardenias Require Acid Soil and Humus

QUESTION: Can you tell me something about the care of a Gardenia plant? Do they require a sunny or shady location and how often should they be given water, also what spray is the best to use on this plant for aphids?

M. L. L.

ANSWER: One of the principal requirements for the successful culture of gardenias is an acid soil and plenty of humus. Oak leaf mold or pine needles may be used to fulfill the acid and humus conditions, although German peat moss may be used as mulch also. Gardenias do not do very well where it is quite hot and dry, and although we can get some good blooms outdoors in this locality, it is better that the plants be at least partially protected by shade, such as would be afforded in a lath house. The plants should not be sprayed with water during the blooming period, else the buds may blight. One of the foremost requirements for growing gardenias is drainage. Some gardeners even go to the extent of setting the plants high up, surrounding by a loose stone wall, particularly on hill sides, in order that drainage may be perfect. With further reference to the mulch, some of it may be worked into the soil should the latter be light and sandy, or if the soil is heavy the mulch may be placed on top.

Should aphids attack the plants, a nicotine dust is advised, particularly if the infestation occurs at blooming time. Nicotine dusts are sold under the trade name, Nicodust.

* * *

QUESTION: Am enclosing two leaves from our Hydrangea. Can you tell us the cause of the paleness and rusty leaves and also the cure. One bush is getting very brown.

Mrs. D. E. C.

ANSWER: The general requirements for growing hydrangeas include partial shade and sufficient moisture. In your locality full exposure to the sun would be rather hard on hydrangeas. The leaves you sent apparently indicated the plants were getting too much water or that the drainage was

imperfect. Hydrangeas generally are rather free from disease and any trouble with them is usually associated with poor drainage, too much water or not enough shade. If you will check the drainage problem and irrigate carefully, the trouble should disappear. A supply of iron dust, such as is sold in seed stores, dug in around the plants should also be a benefit to the plants and aid the leaves in getting back their normal color.

* * *

QUESTION: I am having considerable trouble with palms. The fan leaf palm is covered with black spots and the older fronds turn brown long before they should. I have some real date palms also and their lower leaves are covered with hard scale-like substances. These leaves also turn brown too soon and look badly. Can you tell me what is wrong and the remedy.

S. F.

ANSWER: The *Washingtonia* (fan leaf) palm probably is affected with a disease known as the *Washingtonia* leaf spot. It is quite a common trouble along the coast in San Diego County. The date palm also has a leaf spot disease, although of somewhat different character. The first mentioned disease appears as irregular black raised spots or protuberances and the second as small, elongated, rough, slightly elevated spots. The remedy for both diseases is the same. Cut off and burn the lower and worst affected leaves and spray the plants with rather strong Bordeaux mixture, say that strength known as 8-8-50.

* * *

QUESTION: When I dug my gladiolus bulbs I found they were covered with mealy bugs. From past experience I know they will live on the bulbs during the storage period and nearly ruin them. Can you suggest a method of sterilizing these bulbs so as to free them of mealy bugs?

Mrs. M. H.

ANSWER: A hot water dip is quite effective for mealybug infested corms, or even better, dip them in a hot nicotine solution. Use a quarter ounce of

black leaf 40 to one gallon of water and heat to 122 degrees F. Then add the corms and allow them to remain for ten minutes, keeping the temperature at the figure indicated. Rinse in cold water and dry thoroughly before storing. If an ounce of flake naphthalene is added to each one hundred corms and the latter are stored in closed paper sacks, a very good control over mealybugs and thrips can be obtained, even without the hot water dip. It is good practice to always store gladiolus corms with flake naphthalene.

* * *

QUESTION: Is there any way to stop rose rust? I have tried everything I know but can't seem to get rid of it. My rose bushes look quite badly.

J. W.

ANSWER: Control of rose rust is certainly difficult. Many rose bushes are affected by the disease at this time of year, partly because of weather conditions and partly because ordinary control measures are usually abandoned after the heavy blooming period and the plants are left to shift for themselves.

Preventive measures consist of the removal and burning of diseased leaves as they appear and the removal and destruction of varieties that prove to be particularly susceptible to the disease. During the month of January, when the plants are the most dormant of any period of the year, all of the leaves should be removed and burned and the plants then sprayed with a 5-5-50 Bordeaux solution, or commercial liquid lime-sulphur one part, water ten parts. This may be repeated in two to three weeks.

Later, a regular dusting or spraying program should be carried on with either a fine dusting sulphur, applying it every ten days or two weeks throughout the season, or a liquid spray of potassium sulphide (liver of sulphur) one ounce to three gallons of water. This latter material is practically colorless on foliage and blooms, but will discolor painted woodwork nearby. This spray should be applied every two weeks. Your success in controlling this trouble will largely depend upon how regularly and thoroughly you treat your plants throughout the season. Any fungicide containing either copper or sulphur will probably be effective, besides the specific ones outlined. These two ma-

(Continued from Page 8)

Gambling in the Garden

By PETER D. BARNHART

... Gardening an Intriguing Game of Chance

Gardening in southern California is an intriguing game to play. There is an element of *chance* connected with it, which makes it all the more alluring. This feature of human nature crops out continually in all the activities of men—yes, and of women, too.

We dare to bet on a horse race; the result of a game of bridge; the advance on the price of stocks and bonds, in the hope of winning.

So, too, we invest in plants new to us in the hope of adding a new acquisition to our gardens, and, oh! how frequently are we disappointed with the results. The writer knows—oh, yes, he knows—after years of experience, and the spending of a small fortune playing the game.

Even so it is the only way to find out what will fit into the scheme of gardening in any part of the world.

It is lessons learned in the school of *experience* that lead us into realms of successful endeavor.

It is amazing when one pauses long enough to think, and, it is a difficult task for some people to think; of the vast number of trees, shrubs, and vines growing in the open in this Southland, that are native to Tropic climes. The daily Weather Bureau report is made from records high above the ground, where people live, and move, and garden. There is a vast difference in temperature between the summit of our hills and the valleys that lie between. When in charge of Bell-Air—known at that time as La Quinta—I was determined to know the temperature on top of the hill, and the valley below; known as Stone Canyon. From the Weather Bureau I got two thermometers, such as it uses in its work. During the winter—a misnomer for our climate during the rainy season, which should be called Spring, I learned that there was a difference of five to fifteen degrees every night; the warm strata of air; on top of the hill, of course.

I have also learned that plants, like people, are temperamental, as the story will show before it is brought to a close.

And now for a brief recital; the

limitation of space precludes a lengthy list of the interesting tropical things I have in mind.

The *Dombeya* tribe—of which we have six species, all of them winter bloomers, and very spectacular. *D. Wallichii* is the name of the species which produce large umbels of pink flowers on long peduncle, and, of course the most prominent one of the tribe. The flowers of the entire family will persist after their beauty has faded, disfiguring the plants. The Gardener of artistic temperament will use his pruning shears vigorously to remove this blemish. *Candollea cuneiformis*, a native of the Australian tropics, is an evergreen shrub; the flowers a rich golden color, and, in bloom most of the year.

Of the *Euphorbia* tribe I shall refer to but two. *Poinsettias* are so well known that to make mention of them would be superfluous. *E. fulgens* is the little shrub with w a n d - l i k e branches that are beset with brilliant scarlet flowers, a gorgeous thing that comes to us from the warm section of Mexico. A word here relative to the acrid, milk-like sap of these plants. It burns like fire if it comes in contact with the mucous membranes of our bodies. That of *E. neglecta* will paralyze animal life if introduced into the circulation of the blood. A paralysis without pain, which will last for an hour. I know, oh, yes, I know after being stretched out on a window seat for that length of time, to the consternation of my wife, who thought I was going to "cross the bar."

Of the *Coronillas* there are two species which lend enchantment to our garden the year round. *C. glauca* is the shrubby species; flowers yellow, while *C. viminalis* is a trailing species; the flowers pink, and white. What has become of this species. It has disappeared from our gardens to their detriment.

Of vines I shall confine myself to four species. *Thunbergia Gibsonia*—a glorious evergreen, which blooms every day of the year. It seems happy whether given plenty of water, or kept on the dry side of cultivation.

The flowers are pure golden color. In this respect they are wholly different from their sister known as "Black-eyed Susan"; an annual.

Distictis Cinerea comes to us from the warm section of Mexico. A plant of luxuriant growth, and marvelous beauty when in flower. It is a true flowering Trumpet vine, that should be included in every collection of vines in this Southland.

Stigmaphyllon ciliatum is one of those vines, which, like some people, are good to look at, whether dolled up with corsage bouquets, or in plain every day clothes. The flowers are yellow, borne in clusters; the foliage a dream of beauty. A pleasing shade of green, the margins bordered with pretty bristles.

Aristolochia elegans. Why has this luxuriant climber been permitted to disappear from our gardens? Planted in a sunny situation, protected from cold west winds, it produces its pretty variegated flowers most of the year. The seed pods are interesting, because they have the appearance of a parachute. It seeds freely, the seed germinates readily.

No use to try *A. grandiflora*. It requires too much attention to develop its large flowers which have an appendage a foot long.

Of trees there are a number of sufficient merit to command attention.

Grevillea robusta, when in flower is a veritable flame without smoke. It is this species that is grown in the east as a pot plant on account of its pretty foliage. Lovers of plant life never see it in flower until they come to the land of "Heart's Desire," southern California.

Jacaranda mimosaeifolia, one of the *Bignonia* tribe, is a glorious tree whether in bloom or not. The flowers, pale blue, are so numerous that the tree is a veritable bouquet. After blooming the foliage appears, soft and silky, feathery in appearance.

The *Acacia* Clan contains an endless number of Species. *A. Baileyana* pleases me most. There are others that are more attractive when in bloom but the foliage is so fine, and delicate, that the tree is very attractive when not in flower. That the glorious grandeur of this species may appear, it should be grown alone, and not trimmed up. If thus treated, and grown without water during the summer months it is a veritable bouquet of yellow flowers.

when in bloom; a symphony in silver sheen when not in flower.

And now about the *temperamental* things we try to grow, and fail. *Fouqueria splendens* is one of them. It thrives on the Colorado desert, and when in flower arouses the enthusiasm of all lovers of plant life.

Once upon a time when on a train that was passing through a colony of plants, that were in full bloom, I was tempted to pull the bell cord and stop the train for a half hour just to wander around and feast my soul on the beautiful scene. The slender stems are beset with thorns as hard as horn, and sharp as needles. Ranchers in those regions cut these stems, plant them in a trench to make a fence for a corral. I planted some cuttings in a garden near the coast. They grew, but will not flower.

Once upon a time on my way home from Mexico I stopped for lunch at a clump of *Cercidium torreyanum*, south of Palm Springs. The trees were in full bloom and so attractive that I decided to give it a trial in a Botanic Garden. I found two seed pods, with one seed in each pod. They grew, and the little trees planted, one where they received water all the year, the other where the winter rains are all the moisture it gets. Both specimens are alike in growth, and both unhappy. There are scenes and incidents in the life of most of us that make indelible impressions on our minds. At that little oasis at that time was a family on their way home in the east. Man and his wife, and his sister-in-law, and a daughter, one of those tall willowy girls who love to exhibit themselves to the males of the species. That girl was attired in a costume worn by men. She went on parade while I looked on, out of the corner of my left eye. She was a glamorous specimen of the sex. The scene was so appealing to me that it is one of the pleasant memories of my life.

The common name of this tree is Palo Verde. The same name is applied to *Parkinsonia microphylla*; quite a different tree, which does lend itself to cultivation in our gardens, even when copiously watered.

Another temperamental subject is *Calodendron capense*. It is an exasperating tree. The first one I saw was on the Singleton place twenty-five years ago. It was gorgeous when in

L. H. Bailey Hortorium .

... *Horto-Botanical Enterprise*
Established in Cornell

One of the largest private herbariums in the country, including one of the most comprehensive records of the cultivated plants of the world, has just become the property of Cornell University as the result of the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Liberty Hyde Bailey, famous botanist and professor emeritus at Cornell, it was announced today by the Board of Trustees. The collection, which will be designated by the University as the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium, represents one of the most valuable scientific additions the University has ever acquired.

The hortorium, according to Dr. Bailey, is a horto-botanical establishment and enterprise. The word was coined to designate the Bailey establishment, which comprises upwards of 125,000 mounted herbarium sheets and other similar material specially rich in the cultivated floras of the world and comprising types of new species in the palms, *Carex*, *Vitis*, *Rubus* and other groups; 4,000 technical or professional books germane thereto; thousands of photographs; a garden area on which to grow plants of record; card indices and working equipment.

In offering this great scientific collection to the University, Dr. Bailey states:

flower. With that memory in mind I decided to have one in the aforementioned Botanic Garden. It was given room for development, and has taken advantage of the courtesy extended to it. At this writing it is an umbraeous tree twenty feet high, half as wide in top, and never a bloom. The *Erythrinias* are also a vexation of the spirit of the gardener. *E. Caffra* as it grows on the Sturtevant place in Hollywood, is a thing of beauty, and a joy every year when in flower. I got some cuttings of that tree after a session with Mrs. S. and the most persuasive talk at my command. The cuttings grew, and are now fine specimens, with no disposition to emulate the example of their mother.

"The value of these collections depends on the use that is made of them. The accumulations have been assembled over many years with the hope that they may constitute the basis of a departure in education and research, a new unit unlike any now in existence and which need not duplicate the field of any other department. Its primary purpose is to record and study the cultivated flora of the world to the end that the species may be accurately identified as a scientific basis in horticulture, plant-breeding, pathology, and any other departments of knowledge that work with domesticated plants; and to provide archives of the plants that men at any time or place may grow."

Dr. Bailey was successively Professor of Horticulture, Director, and Dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University and of the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station from 1888 to his retirement in 1913. In 1908-09 he was chairman of the Roosevelt County Life Commission. He is regarded as the foremost living author and editor in the field of agricultural literature. As an explorer and collector of plant life he has travelled all over the world. The Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium will preserve for posterity his distinguished contributions resulting from his life's work.

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Pedil versus Eu-Pedil . . .

By MURRAY SKINNER

... *The "Whys" and "Whats" of Euphorbias*

Not that I care about Euphorbias, that is, not especially, but just that I have an insatiable bump of curiosity; not that my curiosity is so strong for the "whats" of things, but the "whys" always intrigue me; so I said, "Hum! Euphorbias."

A. Gray says Euphorbiaceae is the Spurge Family: "Plants usually with a milky acrid juice, and monaeocious or dioecious flowers, mostly apetalous, sometimes achlamydious (occasionally polyptalous or monopetalous)." Well! Now I know all about "what" it is,—I do not; at least not so I can talk about it.

I proceed to reduce it into the words of the every day man. Method: turn to glossary, read, "monaeocious, flowers having stamens or pistils only." OH!

Turn to section on flowers, read, "of one household—how interesting—when flowers of both sorts of seed are produced by the same individual plant." Ooh! A couple of oh's.

Try again. Turn to glossary, read, "dioecious, with stamens and pistils on different plants." Oh, yes. Certainly!

Turn to flower section, read, "separate households,—modern marriage, I suppose, where the wife retains her maiden name and lives in an apartment across town, meeting her wedded half for week-end trips—where the two kinds of flowers are borne on different plants." This is getting good. If I can remember all this while I acquire a simple meaning for apetalous; a, not, and petalous, easy, no petals. Of course! I'm going fine.

But, horrors, next comes achlamydious. I quit. That man Gray didn't realize the quantity nor quality of my intelligence.

Here, though, this is better: "A vast family in the warmer parts of the world;—I know that. Many come from Africa, and everybody knows that Africa is inclined to be a warm country—mostly numerously represented in northern countries by the genus Euphorbia, L., named after Euphorbus, physician to King Juba. (Who's he?)

Now an Euphorbia, being definitely defined must be an Euphorbia, but here I find Tithymalopsis belonging in the genus, and Pedilanthus and Eupedilanthus, (I surmise there is a reason for all the fancy names), so I start "why-ing." Casually I asked a curator of a Botanic Garden to write a paragraph or two, just like that, describing the difference between those last two. It is positively astonishing how brazen ignorance can be. Even I will acknowledge that.

In the most courteous manner he explained that he really did have a good bit of work to do at the garden, and his library was a trifle small for the task, and he did not feel justified in adding the number of members to his staff of assistants which would be necessary to carry forward the proper research for the correct answering of my question, and would I please excuse him.

After I came up for breath I very humbly replied that it was my mistake; that I just naturally took him for a walking encyclopedia. You know how some of us folks are. I still think I owe someone an apology, but perhaps he realized the situation, and, maybe, perhaps, I might have been paying him a compliment at that.

Now that I have seriously (?) taken up the study of Euphorbias (yes, my tongue is in my cheek) I begin to feel lower than the proverbial nether portions, or might I say the umbilicus of a lumbricous.

But persiflage to the discard, I have learned one thing, never guarantee to tell whether a plant is an Euphorbia by tasting it. Blazes of Lucifer's abode! Red hot hinges of heat! Whe-e-e-e-e!

Having demonstrated this "cast-iron" method at a friend's house I started home, with some distance to drive. My trail that day would have puzzled a Sherlock Holmes of the highest talent, and what my car must have thought, if cars think—watch yours grin at you the next time you are in a hurry and she plants her big foot on a roofing nail.

(Continued on Page 8)

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GREEN FINGERS

You have heard good gardeners referred to as having a "green thumb".

Well, Reginald Arkell has collected his first-rate verses on horticultural matters into a book and calls it "Green Fingers: A Present for a Good Gardener" (London, Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 3s. 6d.)

In spite of the warning on the first page that

"This book is meant for people who Can always make their gardens do Exactly what they want them to . . . Whose paths are *always* free from weeds;

Whose plants are *always* grown from seeds; . . .

In fact, to all of you, I mean Whose fingers are reputed green Because you keep your borders clean."

the more casual gardener will get as much joy out of it as the most meticulous, greenest fingered of them all.

In this very pleasant little volume you will find some choice pieces, voicing thoughts which often come to us but generally remain unspoken, homely little incidents familiar to all who toil among plants. Listen to

"My lawn is very, very old;
Three hundred years at least, I'm told;
It saw the Roundheads marching
through
And heard the cheers for Waterloo.

A man admired my lawn, today;
And how it laughed to hear him say
"Your bit of turf looks nice and flat.
Next year *I'll* have a lawn like that."

or the succinct comment—

"Beverly Nichols
And Marion Cran
Hadn't been born
When the world began.

That is the reason,
I'm bound to confess
The Garden of Eden
Was not a success."

And the Epilogue admonishes, with a reminiscence of Ruth Draper:

"Before you put this little book away
Please promise me that you will
never say
'You should have seen my garden
yesterday'".

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

Flowers of the Wild . . .

By LESTER ROWNTREE

...A Review

Frank C. Pellett is a bird man, a bee man and a wild flower man. He has written books on all three subjects and one of the best of them is his "Flowers of the Wild" (A. T. DeLaMare Co. Inc., New York, \$2.00).

Although Mr. Pellett's large bird and wild flower preserve is in Iowa and is devoted to the flowers of the Middle West and the East, the book will do excellent service in California on account of the writer's views on conservation. For wherever the place and whatever the plant, the tenets of conservation are the same the world over.

I am so impressed by Mr. Pellett's approach to the subject that I am going to indulge in some lengthy quotations. "Nature has spent a long time in working out these harmonious relations. She has adapted some kind of plant to every kind of environment and for every season. When man appeared he proceeded to disarrange things. He knows just enough to tear up and disfigure the earth, but not enough to appreciate the danger to himself of too great a disturbance of Nature's balance of life's forces. His discoveries have rather outrun his ability to use them intelligently. He amuses himself with the use of destructive forces by exterminating forms of life beyond his power to replace. As a result he is in danger of releasing destructive agencies with which he is unable to cope. The harmonious relation between the great variety of living things in a particular environment is the marvel of every observer. Each finds its own place without permanent injury to others,

although one species may in turn provide food for another."

This is followed by incident after incident of man's upsetting of Nature's balance.

Then "We fuss and fail with new things because we do not understand their requirements and we try to make them grow in situations for which they are unfitted. Our first effort should be to understand the conditions in which a plant grows in a state of Nature and then to provide the proper environment."

Mr. Pellett knows what we should all learn before it is too late—that our only hope of saving the wild flowers is to establish refuges throughout each state where the choice plants of the immediate neighborhood may be grown.

He gives the subject of plant associations its due value, stressing the importance of putting the right plant in the right place, bemoaning the fact that the disappearance of wild flowers "is being hastened by over-zealous gardeners, who are transplanting them to an environment where there is no hope of permanent preservation."

In the chapter on "Making the Wild Garden" Mr. Pellett gives us valuable information on suiting the soil to the plant,—a matter on which much light has been shed by the experiments of recent years.

Many of the half-tone illustrations were made from photographs in the author's wild flower preserve, and these and the beautiful color plates make one long to experience just one more eastern springtime,—if only one didn't have to miss the California spring in doing so.

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Nature Pictures . . .

By JOSIE K. ANDERSON

... Rules for Making Garden Pictures

A painter in painting a picture follows certain rules in regards to distances, heights, colors and so on, and it is only by observing these rules and their relation to one another that he is able to paint what is called a picture, a thing to please the eye; also to convey certain ideas. These same rules carried out in gardening is called landscape gardening, or they might be called nature pictures.

We have all looked forward to our Exposition, and are expecting many visitors who will not only visit the Exposition, but also our city. As they drive about our streets what sort of pictures will our gardens convey to them; something to be remembered? On one of our streets is a house and garden which instantly takes the observer back to New England. The house is colonial style, but that fact would hardly attract were it not for the garden. The grounds are small but each tree, shrub, vine and flower has been planted to bring forth the New England homestead. Coming upon it unexpectedly is like turning the pages of an interesting picture book, one just naturally stops to look.

We want the visitors to do just that when they pass our homes. One im-

portant thing in planting a garden is mentally to see the finished garden. Take into consideration heights, distances, colors, everything which will bring forth the thing you already have in mind. If your house is low and dumpy do not surround it with tall stately shrubs and flowers, as they will only serve to eliminate the house altogether. On the other hand if yours is a mansion, small shrubs and low flowers will make the house stand out too much. There are several magazines on the market, as well as books in the public library which supply us with valuable information on how to make attractive gardens.

Those who have neither the time nor money for much gardening can still have attractive yards by keeping everything well trimmed and watered. If there is no time for gay flowers, get a small can of some bright colored paint and paint your flower pots, fern baskets, anything which will create a bright spot, lending a festive atmosphere. A brown cottage at the rear of a bare, but well raked yard, and approached along a wall bordered by gay marigolds has left an inviting picture in my mind. Large means are not necessary but a love of the beautiful and of our city is essential.

New Valuable Book

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by

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How to Prune Western Shrubs

The name of this new pruning guide by R. Sanford Martin would indicate to many that the author was referring to the native shrubs of western United States. A more accurate title would be “A Pruning Guide for Shrubs in Western Gardens,” for this is the field that is covered. The subjects covered include plants introduced from all parts of the world that are adapted to western gardens. Well illustrated by the author this one hundred and eleven page booklet provides that practical

advice on the subject heretofore obtainable only piecemeal from experienced gardeners and often quickly forgotten. There will be those, of course, who will want to quibble with the author over some of the directions given, but we can discover no outstanding deviations from the practice of experienced practical gardeners. The booklet is essentially a practical guide for practical growers and its need as such can hardly be disputed. The nominal price of \$1.00 should insure it a place in every gardener's library.

QUESTION BOX

(Continued from Page 2)

terials are not compatible and could not be used together or even alternately, as the chemical combination would probably injure your plants.

* * *

QUESTION: On my garage driveway bermuda grass is growing thickly. I have cut it out time and again but to no purpose, apparently. Can you suggest some cheap and efficient method of killing it out? M. W.L.

ANSWER: Waste crank case oil liberally applied will certainly destroy bermuda grass. A little cleaner method is by the use of salt. Make a strong brine solution, using cheap crude salt if you can get it, and pour it over the grass. Hot brine is much more effective than cold.

QUESTION: Can you tell me what flowers or ornamental plants will grow in soil that has more or less alkali? I have had no success with many things I have tried.

S. P. R.

ANSWER: Possibly the first thing to do is to try to correct the condition. Drainage must be secured and the alkali leached out with pure water. Rather liberal applications of sulphur or gypsum, which is a combination of lime and sulphur, are satisfactory for this purpose. Drainage, however, is the first essential. Among the plants which are more or less tolerant of alkali are sunflowers, genista, calendula, cosmos, chrysanthemum, garbera, gazania, verbena, zinnia, mallow, mesembryanthemum, portulaca, camphor tree, casuarina tree, Australian tea bush, honey-myrtle, sycamore, locust, fan palms, olives, oleanders and pomegranates.

QUESTION: Can you tell me which is the most quickly available for plant use nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia? Is one as good a fertilizer as the other? Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

G. W. S.

ANSWER: Nitrate of soda—under proper moisture conditions—is almost immediately available. Sulphate of ammonia is less quickly available as the nitrogen contained therein must be changed to the nitrate form before it can be used by plants. Nitrate of soda contains 16 or 17 per cent of actual nitrogen while sulphate of ammonia contains approximately 20½ per cent.

Forest Service Nursery Grows Unusual Plants

In the fight to check soil erosion on depleted rangelands in the national forests of the Southwest the Forest Service has established a nursery in co-operation with the Boyce-Thompson Southwest Arboretum. The nursery is located near Superior, Ariz., and is producing some 45 varieties of soil-binding plants, many of which are valuable as forage.

Many of the old standbys among native growths of the southwestern ranges, such as Apache plume, mountain mahogany, desert willow, chamiso, grama grass, hackberry, wild grape, and others, are being produced to reclothe barren and eroding areas resulting from overgrazing. During suitable planting seasons, shrubs, bushes, vines, and grasses developed at the arboretum are distributed to nat-

ional forest areas for use in erosion control projects throughout Arizona and New Mexico. A quantity of hackberry seedlings and squawberry bushes was recently grown for planting for a quail refuge that the Forest Service is establishing, with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps, in the Santa Rita Mountains.

In addition to growing the native plants, a number of exotic plants with soil-binding and forage possibilities are being tested. The *Panicum antidote*, a coarse perennial grass from the arid sections of northwest Australia, is regarded as the most promising of these. It has flourished in the arroyo-bottom soil, with a minimum of rainfall. On several occasions cattle have eaten it down to the ground, but it has continued to grow and mature seeds.

There are two reasons why sulphate of ammonia is usually preferred in California over nitrate of soda. The first is that owing to certain chemical combinations formed following the addition of the latter, sodium carbonate or black alkali results. Not any great amount at any one time, perhaps, but if its use is continued an injurious accumulation will finally result. The second is that the nitrogen in nitrate of soda is liable to be washed below the reach of the roots in a wet season or following heavy irrigations. Sulphate of ammonia, on the other hand, is fixed by other substances in the soil and is not, therefore, readily leached out.

PEDIL VERSUS EU-PEDIL

(Continued from Page 5)

First a drug store swam into view and I stopped for a coca cola. Then a restaurant for a cup of coffee. Again a drug store for a ginger ale. By the time I had arrived home I could, almost certainly, have floated a battleship with the amount of liquid refreshment I had swallowed. Poor lips! Poor tongue! Poor stomach! Poor

mutt! Draw the curtains and hide my disgust. Suggest this method some day to your best enemy. You'll be revenged for a life time of wrongs.

Now, I carefully pin prick the plant, gaze somberly upon the drop of white fluid exuded and gravely say, "Yes, it seems to be an Euphorbia."

What intrigues me about these Euphorbia things is the appalling variations in the group. The talls and the shorts, the thicks, and the thins, the spinys, and the smooths, the spotteds and the plains, the slab-sided, square-sided, corn-sided, horn-sided, many-sided, no-sided kinds; the darling little *globosa* with the quaintest of blooms, and the immense *grandicornis* with the quaintest of corners; also many of the pestiferous weeds of the United States and the glorious *amak* or the *abyssinica* of Africa.

The Spurge Family, much like the Smith Family, certainly does run to variety. It's even so greedy for glory it includes the Poinsettia, Santa Claus's own Button-hole bouquet. In this plant it turned to "splurge" and spread itself all over the front page of Christmas. Hurrah, or the Spurges, may their wonders ever increase!

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